

JANUARY 1962

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
OF THE
RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

SECOND YEAR — No. 10

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The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

Los Convenios de Ginebra y la protección de los prisioneros de guerra (H.C.). — Mensaje de Año Nuevo. — Misión del CICR en Argelia y en Túnez. — Una Medalla conmemorativa para el personal médico que ha trabajado en el Congo. — Las Naciones Unidas y la aplicación de los Convenios de Ginebra. — Siguiendo la pista de los antiguos internados italianos en Alemania. — La difusión de los Convenios de Ginebra y la Federación Mundial de Ex Combatientes.

GERMAN

Die Genfer Abkommen und der Schutz der Kriegsgefangenen (H.C.). — Neujahrbotschaft. — Mission des IKRK in Algerien und Tunesien. — Gedenkmedaille für medizinische Personal im Kongo. — Die Vereinten Nationen und die Anwendung der Genfer Abkommen. — Auf den Spuren ehemals in Deutschland internierter Italiener. — Die Verbreitung der Genfer Abkommen und der Weltfrontkämpferverband.

THE

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THE RED CROSS ACTION IN THE CONGO

The International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies made a point of informing those taking part in the meetings of the International Red Cross in Prague, by means of information sessions and a booklet, of the work undertaken by the Red Cross in the Congo since 1960. This has been dealt with in the International Review on a number of occasions but in a fragmentary manner and we think it would be useful to summarize for our readers some of the successive stages in an operation which has mobilized, and which continues to mobilize, part of the forces of the Red Cross.

Here, first of all, are the main points of a speech made by Mr. Gallopin, Executive Director of the ICRC, to which we have added certain details on the interventions which have taken place in recent months, following events in Katanga. Secondly, we are publishing some passages from a booklet edited jointly by the ICRC and the League on medical assistance in the Congo¹ and to finish we are giving a few details on the medal distributed to the members of medical teams to whom the ICRC wished to express its grateful recognition.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN THE CONGO

Acting in conformity with its mandate and by virtue of the right of initiative which it is universally accorded, the ICRC took the decision to send two delegates to Leopoldville at the outset of the disturbances which followed the proclamation of the Congo's

¹ *Medical assistance in the Congo.* Report on the action of the International Red Cross, given the task of providing staff for some 30 abandoned hospitals in the newly independent Republic of the Congo, for an emergency period of 12 months. ICRC and League, Geneva, 1961.

independence. These men's mission was to take all the measures necessary to bring aid to the victims of events in agreement with the Congolese authorities. Besides this, the ICRC soon received appeals from the Congolese Section of the Red Cross, as well as the Belgian Red Cross.

I. Emergency Phase.—The ICRC's first aim was to obtain from everybody respect for the Red Cross emblem protecting neutral health areas which had been established on the delegation's initiative. These zones, which included the hospitals of Leopoldville and Stanleyville, were approved by all the parties together and they rendered valuable service.

The ICRC also took part in the evacuation of nationals who were being forced to leave the country as a result of the severe disorders. To this effect, its delegates lent all their support to the Congolese Section of the Red Cross which they helped in protecting and evacuating these persons. They backed up these relief actions to the civilian population, supplying it with powdered milk and multivitamins, so that it could resume its distributions of milk to the women and children in the main districts of Leopoldville.

Slowly, the ICRC diversified its action and extended it to other fields of activity, which necessitated its delegation in the Congo being reinforced.

II. Civilian and Military Prisoners.—From the outset of the disturbances, the ICRC endeavoured to carry out one of its specific tasks in giving its assistance to military prisoners and persons detained for political reasons. The many approaches which its delegates made often had positive results.

Thus, in August 1960 the delegation took an active part in the release and repatriation of fifteen wounded Belgian troops, who were escorted from the hospital in Leopoldville to Brussels by an ICRC doctor-delegate.

During the displacements in the interior of the Congo, delegates have intervened on numerous occasions on behalf of Congolese political detainees, particularly in Stanleyville and Luluabourg. They have made repeated visits to penal establishments, camps or prisons. In certain cases, they have been able to obtain the release

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of some of these detainees, improvement in detention conditions or even organize the revictualling of certain prisons which were no longer receiving foodstuffs as a result of events.

At the beginning of November 1960, a delegate who had been sent to Katanga to examine the humanitarian problems which were arising there, sought and received from the Katangan authorities permission to visit political prisoners. He went to the main places of detention, namely the prisons of Buluo and Kasapa, where there were more than one thousand detainees.

Following the observations and approaches made by this delegate, the Katangan authorities largely took note of the suggestions which he put forward for the improvement in the treatment of political prisoners.

On December 5, the ICRC delegation in Leopoldville received permission to visit Luzumun prison, on the outskirts of Leopoldville, where the delegate had various talks with the political personalities of Orientale Province who were detained there, as well as Lula prison in Stanleyville, where politicians of the central Government were imprisoned.

On December 27, the ICRC doctor-delegate was able to go to Hardy military camp at Thysville, where, at this time, Mr. Patrice Lumumba was imprisoned. He had talks with the latter and his companions and was also able to examine the detention conditions. With the agreement of the Congolese authorities, he passed on messages which had been given him by these persons for their families.

Following this, the ICRC repeatedly approached the competent authorities, not only in Katanga but in Stanleyville and Leopoldville, to be allowed to carry out further visits but, unfortunately, without success. It had not obtained permission to visit Mr. Lumumba again, when the latter's death was announced. The International Committee has shown itself no less resolved to continue its efforts in order to bring its assistance to all detainees, without distinction and without discrimination and to be able to visit them in all regions of the Congo, independently of all political and racial tendencies.

In February 22, 1961, as the situation was worsening, the ICRC made an appeal to all those exercising authority in the territory

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of the ex-Belgian Congo, reminding them of the universally recognized humanitarian principles and offering them its services as a neutral intermediary.

Mr. M. Tshombe replied favourably to this appeal and gave his agreement to a new ICRC mission in Katanga with the result that two ICRC delegates left Geneva on March 15. During a stay of one month they were given all the necessary facilities for visiting establishments where persons were detained who had been arrested or imprisoned for political motives. They were able to observe with satisfaction that the suggestions made during the previous mission had, to a large extent, been carried out.

In another connection, the ICRC delegate who had gone to Stanleyville obtained permission to visit, on March 1, eight Belgian troops who had been taken prisoner in January at the Ruanda Urundi frontier and transferred to Stanleyville. He had talks with them, handed over mail to them and intervened so that they received the relief they needed until the beginning of July when they were finally released and repatriated, the delegate accompanying them from Stanleyville to Brussels.

It should also be pointed out that within the limits of the approaches which he has unceasingly made to assist all prisoners, civilian or military, Congolese or European, one of the ICRC doctor-delegates was authorized by the Leopoldville Government to visit, during May, Mr. Moïse Tshombe, president, and Mr. Evariste Kimba, Katangan Minister for Foreign Affairs, while they were detained at Coquilhatville. Accompanied by a Swiss Red Cross doctor, he carried out a thorough medical examination of these two men, assured himself that the necessary care which he had begun would continue to be given them and talked freely with them. The same ICRC doctor-delegate was able to re-visit these two men after their transfer to Leopoldville, with the authorization of the central Government. In accordance with usual practice the reports of the visits made by the ICRC delegates were handed over to the detaining authorities only.

To its regret the ICRC has to acknowledge that, despite its efforts, it has not obtained the authorization which it has unfailingly sought in order to extend the same assistance to all Congolese civilian prisoners in the hands of the authorities in power in the

different provinces of the Congo, particularly in Western Province, Kivu and Kasai.

Finally, the ICRC delegation in the Congo was authorized to visit about forty European troops serving Katanga, who had been captured by the United Nations forces and interned at Kamina base, then transferred to Leopoldville. Notification of their capture was made by the ICRC Central Tracing Agency, which also served as intermediary for the exchange of correspondence between these prisoners and their families up till the time when they were repatriated through the good offices of UNO. Other groups of military serving in the Katangan forces and subsequently captured, have also been visited in Leopoldville by ICRC delegates before their repatriation.

III. Tracing Service.—One of the ICRC delegates in the Congo was detailed to set up a tracing agency within the delegation in Leopoldville, along the lines of the Central Agency in Geneva. He has done this with great success and we do not propose to go into details here, as the International Review devoted a comprehensive article to this activity in a recent number (April, 1961).

IV. Development of the Red Cross in the Congo.—The ICRC delegation lent its services to the young Congolese Red Cross to help it to form itself into an autonomous Society. Together with that Red Cross, it approached the Congolese Government in order to urge the latter to adhere to the Geneva Conventions and to confer its official recognition on the young National Society being trained. It helped the Society to draw up its statutes and gave it advice, not only for its re-organization, but for the preparation of its future activity.

The constitution and re-organization of this Society raised innumerable problems of a practical and legal nature which have still not been entirely solved. However, definite progress has already been made and the young Society can be considered as being on the way to fulfilling important functions, although it has not yet been recognized either by the Government or by the ICRC.

It should moreover be pointed out that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Congolese Government sent a declaration to the

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Federal Political Department at Berne on February 20, 1961, confirming that the Congo is a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

V. Dissemination of the Conventions.—At the same time as it intervened with the authorities to initiate this declaration of accession to the Conventions, the ICRC delegation was engaged in disseminating the principles in such measure as the circumstances permitted. A special edition of the illustrated booklet on the Conventions in nine languages was rapidly brought out, in which one of the languages was replaced by Lingala, which is spoken principally in the army. This edition was distributed through the Congolese Red Cross and various educational authorities.

VI. Relief Actions.—Since August, 1960, the ICRC delegates have taken part in different relief actions in the interior of the Congo. Thus, after the severe tribal fighting in South Kasai, which had serious consequences on the food and health situation in that region, the ICRC delegation, acting in co-operation with the United Nations, carried out, with enormous difficulty, two distributions of foodstuffs to the Baluba refugees who had fled before the repeated attacks of the Lulus. Other emergency actions were undertaken on several occasions in different regions of the Congo in co-operation and with the help of the United Nations or UNICEF. The convoys were escorted by an ICRC delegate who organized and supervised distributions, with the assistance of the local authorities. There were actions of this nature on several occasions, particularly in the Bakwanga region, where most of the Baluba refugees were concentrated, in the Luluabourg region, in North Katanga and in Shangugu region, on behalf of refugees from Ruanda Urundi.

However, on seeing that, as the situation worsened, it was bringing in its train enormous problems of relief, the ICRC sent one of its delegates on a special mission to the most troubled areas in order to evaluate the size of the needs and to determine if it was possible for the ICRC to take part in the emergency actions which the United Nations were preparing to undertake to cope, in particular, with the wide-spread famine among about 300,000 refugees from South Kasai.



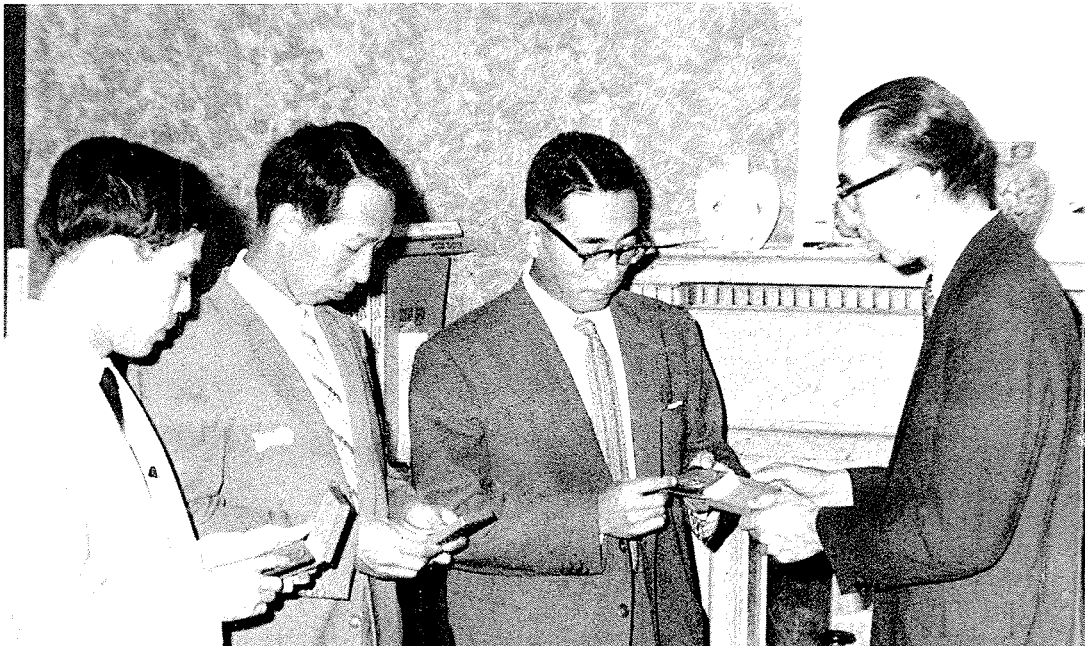
Commemorative medal presented by the ICRC to the members of the medical teams in the Congo.



Mr. de Valera, President of the Republic of Eire, and of Irish Red Cross, handing the medal to Irish recipients . . .

Members of medical teams receiving the ICRC commemorative medal.

. . . Mr. Shimadzu, President of the Japanese Red Cross, handing the medal to Japanese recipients.



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However, after examining the alarming report received from its delegate, the ICRC came to the conclusion that the relief action which should be undertaken clearly exceeded the capacity and the competence of a private institution such as the ICRC ; firstly by reason of the exceptional conditions which existed in the Congo and the complete disorganization and absence of public transport which resulted ; secondly because of the duration of the actions required. In fact, during previous emergency actions the ICRC had been able to act with the support of the public services, whose co-operation is indispensable. Moreover, it judged that the criteria which guide its action as a neutral intermediary were not present in the Congo. Finally, quite apart from these fundamental considerations, it was obvious that enormous State aid was necessary, which only an inter-governmental organization such as UNO was in a position to obtain.

The ICRC, therefore, felt obliged to refuse the offer made to it to assume any rôle in the Committee for co-ordinating aid to the Congolese civilian population, scheduled by UNO in the Congo.

The mission carried out by the ICRC delegate did, however, give UNO the opportunity of possessing all the data necessary for judging the situation, by examining concrete proposals as a result of which it was able to take all the emergency measures which were needed. Moreover, the International Committee declared itself willing, within the limits of its means, to lend its assistance for all emergency actions which UNO might undertake in the Congo, and until that organization was able to set up permanent technical measures of assistance to the Congolese civilian population.

In another sphere, the ICRC delegation in the Congo has endeavoured to bring aid and protection to any part of the civilian population which has been the victim of racial or political discrimination. When serious disturbances broke out in Kivu province at the beginning of 1961, an ICRC delegate tried to intervene but the local authorities did not allow him to do so. However, the observations which he made at Shangugu, at the Ruanda Urundi frontier, towards which the refugees were flocking, as well as at the United Nations camp at Bukavu, made him realize the extreme gravity of the situation. On his return to Leopoldville, the ICRC

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delegate immediately made a report and pointed out that measures should be taken to ensure protection for the civilian population in that area.

Katanga.—The ICRC was considering closing its mission in the Congo when the recent events in Katanga arose. As soon as the fighting, which extended to several parts of the province, was known about, the ICRC immediately set to work to exercise its humanitarian activity as a neutral intermediary, to assist all victims, to have the principles of the Geneva Conventions respected and to ensure the protection of the Red Cross emblem. It also asked one of its delegates in Leopoldville to try and reach Elisabethville but the latter had to wait until September 19, 1961, before finally getting to Katanga.

At the same time the ICRC sent another delegate from Geneva to Rhodesia, from where he succeeded in reaching Elisabethville shortly afterwards. He immediately made every effort to ensure that the traditional tasks of the ICRC in this new conflict were carried out.

Two of the ICRC delegates were present at the release of military prisoners by the United Nations and the Katangan authorities. These prisoners from both sides, detained at Jadotville and Elisabethville, had previously been visited on two occasions by ICRC delegates. One of the latter also visited Katangan military prisoners at Albertville, Manono, Nyunzu and Kolwezi.

Faced with the renewal of hostilities in Katanga, the International Committee of the Red Cross took further measures to extend its humanitarian assistance to all the victims, military and civilian, of events. Its delegate endeavoured to have civilians who were trapped in combat areas supplied with food and evacuated. He tried to organize truces to allow the wounded and the dead to be collected, to visit prisoners and, in general, to ensure that the rules of the Geneva Conventions were respected.

Furthermore, in order to make its action more effective and to reinforce its delegation in Elisabethville, the ICRC ordered another of its representatives, the delegate in Rhodesia, to go to Elisabethville immediately. At the same time, it sought the assistance of the Rhodesian branch of the British Red Cross to place personnel and equipment at the disposal of the ICRC delegates.

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On December 24, 1961, the ICRC learned with deep regret from its delegation in the Congo the confirmation of the death of one of its representatives, Mr. Georges Olivet, of whom there had been no news since December 13. In this issue we shall return to this tragic event, which has been all the more of a shock to the Red Cross world, since Mr. Olivet was mortally wounded during the exercise of his duties as an ICRC delegate, while going to the aid of victims of the fighting in Elisabethville.

CONGO MEDICAL RELIEF

Congo medical needs.—A few days after independence, disturbances broke out between Congolese and Europeans, resulting in the exodus of most of the latter. Before independence there had been some 760 doctors in the Congo, all of them European, about one to every 18,000 people. After independence only 200 of these doctors remained or returned, the vast majority within the security of the cities. With the departure of the doctors many of the remaining trained personnel had also disappeared, so that in many places public health and hospital services had completely broken down. It therefore became urgently necessary to find a sufficient number of doctors and technicians to keep normal medical services going and to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.

Appeal to International Red Cross.—To help meet these medical needs the United Nations, whose help had been requested by the new Republic of the Congo, made an appeal through the World Health Organization to the International Red Cross. The original request was for five to ten medical teams, each with a doctor and two nurses. A week later, as the extent of needs became known, the World Health Organization requested at least another ten teams. The initial assignment was for three months but this was extended later to six months, and prolonged finally to 30 June 1961. The teams initially requested were of two kinds : a smaller one with a physician having surgical training and knowledge of tropical diseases, and two nurses ; and a larger one with a surgeon, a physician experienced in tropical medicine, and three nurses. After

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the first three months however, the assignment of nurses was not prolonged because the local staff were proving sufficient to assist the Red Cross doctors.

ICRC and League responsibilities.—Both international institutions of the Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, played a part in the Congo medical action. Since the ICRC's establishment almost 100 years ago, the usual function of this committee of citizens from neutral Switzerland has been to act as humanity's intermediary in time of war, civil war and internal disturbances. The rôle of the League, which came into being in 1919, is to foster the growth of of the Red Cross throughout the world and to promote peacetime international Red Cross relief on behalf of disaster victims and refugees. To achieve this aim, the League appeals to and works through its 85 member National Societies.

Consequently, in view of the situation existing in the Congo, it was agreed that the ICRC should be responsible for all international Red Cross action in that country. It was therefore decided that the medical teams in the Congo would be under the direct control of the ICRC which would be responsible for coordinating their activities in consultation with the Congolese Minister of Health and the WHO, while the League would coordinate with the National Societies the recruitment of the medical personnel and would be responsible for team welfare and administrative matters in the Congo.

Response of National Societies.—Immediately after receiving the request from the World Health Organization, the ICRC and League sent a cabled appeal to 15 National Societies for the five to ten medical teams initially needed. Within 48 hours ten teams had been recruited. In four days the first team promised, from Norway, had already arrived in the Congo. Within a month, 27 teams from 20 National Societies were on duty and by the end of the Red Cross medical action on 30 June 1961 a total of 57 teams from 23 National Societies had served in the Congo.

The response of the Red Cross National Societies was in fact remarkable because only two months earlier they had been called

upon to help provide material relief for 800,000 earthquake and flood victims in Chile, and since February 1960 they had been providing both personnel and material assistance to rescue and care for the 22,000 victims of the earthquake in Agadir. Furthermore, many National Societies had been providing, and were to continue providing, expert personnel to rehabilitate the 10,000 persons paralysed from oil poisoning in December 1959, also in Morocco, while for two years further back they had been contributing, and would continue contributing, a considerable proportion of the relief supplies needed to keep alive the 200,000 and more Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia.

Not that medical relief was the only demand which the Congo crisis would make on the Red Cross world. It is of course true that, in a world increasingly aware of human needs, the Red Cross will be called upon to fill greater and greater demands. If there is any guide in the experience gained over the past five years since Hungarian refugee relief, then certainly the National Societies have not been found wanting in meeting these responsibilities.

International Red Cross delegations in the Congo.—Because of the disorder and breakdown of administration in the Congo, it was just as difficult to establish and maintain a medical relief operation as it was urgent to meet the medical needs. It was one of the duties of the delegation established by the ICRC in Leopoldville, the Congo capital, to develop a plan for the medical relief operation in cooperation with the Congolese authorities and the World Health Organization, to place or reassign the Red Cross teams according primarily to needs but also to security conditions, to accompany the teams to their hospital of destination, to ensure that they had accommodation, to see that they were provided with adequate drugs, medical supplies and equipment, and to maintain liaison with all the teams scattered throughout the country which they visited as often and regularly as conditions and transport means permitted.

For its part, the League appointed a liaison officer for the medical teams. He was responsible for team welfare and administrative matters and for maintaining relations between the teams and their National Red Cross Societies. The first of these duties was to

receive the teams at Leopoldville airport, to assure their lodging in the city and to meet personal needs before assignment to a hospital. Once the teams were in the field the League liaison officer also visited them to ensure that they were settled as comfortably as possible, to hand over books and funds for salary and living costs as instructed by the National Societies, and to meet costs over and above these living allowances where adequate board, lodging and transport were not made available by the local authorities. Very often, too, the League delegate had to take along food with him for the teams.

Transport of medical teams.—Because of the emergency character of the medical relief action and also because of limited internal surface communications, transport of the Red Cross medical teams both to and within the Congo was mostly by air. Some of the Red Cross teams arrived in the Congo directly from their home country but eventually most of them flew in through Pisa, from where the United Nations had organised an airlift for their civil and military personnel and for food and relief supplies. Within the Congo itself where practically no other transportation means exists, the teams usually travelled to their destination in airplanes chartered by the United Nations. Following arrangements concluded by the ICRC, the United Nations Organization in the Congo also made air transport available to the International Red Cross for visits to teams and for freighting of medical supplies.

Assignment and security.—The Red Cross medical teams worked in all the Congo provinces except Katanga—where the medical situation had remained unchanged—and in some thirty cities and other main centres of population.

Most of the teams worked in conditions of security or themselves created such conditions thanks to their tact, patience and good work. In a few cases, however, disorder was overwhelming and the Red Cross team had to be evacuated or reassigned. One team was badly beaten and had to stay for a short time in hospital. Another team was besieged for a fortnight and had to be relieved by United Nations troops, while a third team got cut off from all communications but, as was learned later, with little impairment to the

team doctor's services to the local population. The ICRC delegate took numerous steps with a view to obtain guarantee from the local authorities and assistance by the United Nations for the security of the teams and to avoid the renewal of such regrettable incidents.

In spite of their difficulties many Red Cross teams showed considerable resourcefulness and prompt action in meeting needs created by exceptional circumstances. One Red Cross team forced a truce between warring tribes to recover and care for the wounded, another acted as first-aiders, stretcher-bearers and peace-makers in a conflict between United Nations and Congolese forces, and a third provided emergency relief for the victims of an earthquake.

Medical supplies.—One of the great handicaps in administering hospital and health services to the people of the Congo was the lack of medical supplies and the disrepair and damage done to hospital equipment. When making visits to teams the ICRC delegates usually took with them a wide range of drugs, serums, dressings and surgical instruments either in anticipation of needs or as a result of actual requests from the Red Cross doctors. Eventually, too, it was possible to send round a technician capable of repairing X-ray equipment in the hospitals run by the medical teams. The money to finance these supplies, totalling US \$45,883, was supplied by the British, Danish and German Federal Red Cross Societies, and from the ICRC itself. Meanwhile in Leopoldville the Netherlands and Canadian Red Cross Societies had staffed and operated a blood transfusion centre.

In addition to regular distributions of medical supplies, a special action was undertaken by the League in May 1961 for the people of Orientale Province. Following a three-month blockade of that province and an urgent request from the provincial Red Cross, nearly five tons of medical supplies, valued at US \$129,000 and donated by the Red Cross Societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, were airlifted to Stanleyville.

Financing of medical relief operation.—For the first and second three-month periods of Congo medical relief, the Red Cross teams were provided and paid for by their home National Society, with exceptional living costs being borne by the League when these

could not be met by local authorities as initially foreseen. Meanwhile the World Health Organization tried to recruit doctors to serve in the Congo on long-term contracts. By the end of 1960, owing to continuing unsettled conditions, these efforts had not yet met with much success, so that the World Health Organization requested the International Red Cross to maintain 50 doctors in the Congo for another six months and offered to take much of the financial burden off the National Societies. As before, the National Societies continued to pay normal living costs for team members but the basic salaries of the medical personnel were paid by a WHO fund placed at the disposal of the League. The costs of staffing the medical relief action borne directly by the Red Cross world amounted to some US \$500,000.

Conclusions.—In spite of so much disorder and so many difficulties, the Red Cross medical relief action achieved what it was requested and set out to do : to keep hospital and health services going on an emergency basis till the Congolese medical authorities and the World Health Organisation could fill these needs on a longer term basis and begin to train the Congolese themselves to take over.

With regard to the fulfilment of the longer term programme, more than half of the minimum 200 international medical personnel needed had by June 1961 taken on engagements with the World Health Organization, which has also put advisory teams at the disposal of the Congolese Ministry of Health. Already, too, some 120 Congolese are beginning or completing medical and nursing studies in European universities at the expense of the United Nations, and 45 others have taken up medical scholarships in the Congo itself.

The Congo medical relief action also marked a step forward in international Red Cross relief, both in the largest number of teams ever recruited at such short notice and in the truly representative nature of the medical relief action. For the first time, Red Cross personnel from all six continents worked together in the Congo, with teams from Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America working side by side with teams from Europe and North America.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

The medical action which the Red Cross undertook on behalf of the Congo ended, as one knows, on June 30, 1961, having lasted almost a year. The services rendered were considerable and given in difficult circumstances, in which the ICRC took over the co-ordination of the activities of different medical teams placed at its disposal by the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

Wishing to give special recognition to the courage and devotion shown by the members of the medical teams, the ICRC decided, some time ago, to award a medal to each one of them with a special inscription recalling the medical action in the Congo.¹ Each medal bears the name of the recipient on the reverse.

The National Societies of the following countries undertook to hand the medals to the recipients : Germany (Democratic Republic), Germany (Federal Republic), Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greece, India, Iran, Eire, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, The Netherlands, Poland, The United Arab Republic, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

During ceremonies organized for this purpose, some of the medals were handed over to the recipients¹, several of whom have written to Geneva expressing their pleasure at receiving this token of recognition.

The International Committee deeply appreciates the efforts made by the Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies, to send medical personnel to the Congo, and the professional and moral qualities of this personnel. There is no doubt that this action, as well as that undertaken by the ICRC—in conformity with its mandate and by virtue of its right of initiative, and which we recalled in the first part of this article—has raised the prestige of the Red Cross and brought effective aid to the population of the Congo at a critical moment in its existence.

¹ *Plate.*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dr. Ernest GLOOR will remain Vice-President of the International Committee in 1962 and Mr. Frédéric SIORDET has been appointed Vice-President for 1962 and 1963.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross has formed its Presidential Council for 1962, consisting of the following : President: Mr. Léopold BOISSIER ; Vice-Presidents : Dr. Ernest GLOOR and Mr. Frédéric SIORDET ; Members : Messrs. Jacques CHENEVIÈRE, Martin BODMER, Jacques FREYMOND and Samuel GONARD.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The International Committee of the Red Cross has appointed a new member, Miss Marjorie Duvillard, who assumed her duties on November 23, 1961.

After having studied at Buenos Aires, then at Vevey and Geneva, Miss Duvillard obtained the diploma of " Le Bon Secours " Nursing School in 1939. She then worked as a practising nurse and subsequently followed a series of refresher courses in various countries, especially in the United States. From 1940 to 1942, she was delegate of the International Union for Child Welfare to Latin America and, from 1945 to 1947, nursing adviser to the League of Red Cross Societies. She was appointed Director of " Le Bon Secours " Nursing School at Geneva, having occupied this position since 1948.

At a time when the question of training medical personnel and nurses is assuming increased importance in the world, the International Committee is pleased to be able to count in future on the services of Miss Marjorie Duvillard, whose expert advice will be of special value to it.

The International Committee has elected Mr. Max Petitpierre as a new member. He took up his duties on December 2, 1961.

Born in 1899 at Neuchâtel, where he studied and obtained his doctorship of laws, Mr. Petitpierre was appointed Professor at the University of his native town in 1926, where he also practised law. In 1938 he became Dean of the Faculty of Laws.

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In 1942, he was made President of the Swiss Chamber of Clocks and Watches and was elected in 1944 to the Swiss Federal Council. He was three times President of the Confederation and, in 1961, he resigned from the Federal Council.

It should be recalled that, in 1949, he presided during four and a half months with great authority and competence over the Geneva Diplomatic Conference. This Conference adopted the four International Conventions for the protection of the victims of war, which represent, as one knows, a considerable step forward in the history of humanitarian law. During that time the new Geneva Convention originated, which offered guarantees to civilians which they had for so long been lacking.

Thanks to his extensive knowledge and experience, Mr. Petitpierre will bring most valuable support to the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in which he has already shown a constant interest.

After the death of Georges Olivet

Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross ¹

Georges Olivet died in the service of the Red Cross in December 1961 near Elisabethville, Katanga. The last message from him was received on December 13, in which he reported that he had several times tried to reach United Nations headquarters, but without success since the troops on guard had refused to allow him to pass. He had wanted to negotiate a truce for the evacuation of civilians in the battle areas.

On December 14, rumours started to circulate according to which Mr. Olivet had disappeared; the ICRC at once requested that searches be made by the United Nations Forces in Katanga. Being still without news on the following day, the ICRC instructed its delegate at Leopoldville to proceed immediately to Elisabethville to take part in the investigations.

Subsequently telegrams were exchanged between Elisabethville, New York and Geneva, and it was confirmed that Mr. Olivet was in fact seen for the last time in an ambulance heading towards the headquarters of the United Nations, accompanied by M^{me} Nicole Vroonen and Mr. Styts Smeding, both of whom were volunteers of the Katanga Red Cross. The ICRC delegates, Messrs. Senn and de Preux, as well as Mr. Melcher, correspondent, remained continuously in touch with those at the United Nations upon which the enquiry depended. Not having succeeded in obtaining sufficient reliable information, they then warned military patrols to search for traces of the three missing persons.

In view, however, of the persistent silence surrounding this matter, the International Committee decided on December 22 to send out an independent personality from Geneva to Elisabethville with the task of enquiring about Mr. Olivet's fate: it informed the

¹ *Plate.*

United Nations Secretary-General of this, who replied by assuring the ICRC " that UNOC will spare no effort to find Mr. Olivet, for whose work," he said, " which has been accomplished in Katanga we have the highest regard ".

However, on the next day a telegram from the correspondent of the ICRC at Elisabethville reached Geneva which read as follows:

" Bodies Olivet and Madame Vroonen of Belgian nationality and Smeding of Dutch nationality found this morning. Bodies were found buried about 20 yards from the ambulance. Ambulance had been hit by machine-gun and bazooka or other fire. Ambulance was in full battle area on December 13, enquiry being undertaken by State Public Prosecutor, will keep you informed result as soon as possible. Have brought body Madame Vroonen to Reine Elisabeth hospital. The two other bodies will be exhumed this afternoon."

The drama had thus been played out to the end and the International Committee learned this news with the deepest affliction, which it had the sad task of informing Mr. Olivet's family. However, the circumstances themselves of this tragic event had not been cleared up, consequently on December 24 the ICRC, which had not in the meantime received sufficient details, informed Mr. Thant and Mr. Tshombe of the departure of one of its Vice-Presidents, Mr. F. Siordet, for Elisabethville. We will return subsequently to the results of this mission.

Finally, on December 25, the ICRC received a further telegram from its correspondent at Elisabethville, tragic in its briefness and in which it was stated that Georges Olivet and his companions had been buried that very morning in the grounds of the Reine Elisabeth hospital in the presence of the delegates of the ICRC, representatives of the Katanga Government, the consular corps, and representatives of the Katanga Red Cross and of the medical services.

*

As soon as confirmation was received in Geneva of the tragic news of the death of its representative in Katanga, the International Committee of the Red Cross published the following press release on December 24, 1961:

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has received from its delegation in the Congo confirmation of the death of its representative, Georges Olivet, mortally struck, with two members of the Katanga Red Cross, whilst carrying aid to the victims of the fighting at Elisabethville.

The ICRC wishes to pay public tribute to this faithful servant of the Red Cross, who did not cease, since the beginning of the hostilities in the Congo, from risking himself with exemplary courage in order to mitigate suffering and save many human lives, for his devotion to the Red Cross ideal he paid with his life. Mr. Frédéric SiorDET will be proceeding to the Congo to take part in the enquiry opened by the authorities.

Mr. Boissier, President of the institution, then paid tribute to Mr. Olivet in the press and on the wireless as follows:

One recalls the famous statement " I only believe in causes for which men get themselves killed ". For the Red Cross, or rather for those whom it aids, people are giving their lives, and the International Committee of the Red Cross now numbers one more martyr.

For eighteen months the delegates of the ICRC have travelled throughout the Congo by car, on dangerous roads at the mercy of ambushes, in planes which landed somehow or other on airstrips which were often blocked. Everywhere, they have tried to release prisoners, exchange hostages and protect populations threatened by massacre and famine. Only recently, Georges Olivet was sparing no effort, with a love, a faith and a courage which everybody, white and black, admired, because this man was destined to accomplish such a mission.

Speaking several native languages, which he had learned whilst in business, he knew how to approach the local inhabitants, to speak to them, to understand them and, above all, to make himself loved.

He was confided in and his help was sought. For him, only one thing mattered, to devote himself entirely to a cause to which he had dedicated his life.

Thus in Elisabethville, in the middle of the fighting, he made several attempts to cross the enemy lines to save the victims of heavy firing. He did not succeed. He tried once more and that was the end. The end of an earthly existence but the beginning of greater things, to be followed as an example.

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In 1960, when the grave events started which were to tear the Congo apart, Georges Olivet with spontaneous enthusiasm placed himself at the disposal of the ICRC. All those who were then to become his companions at the ICRC delegation at Leopoldville paid tribute to his courage and to his generosity. Always willing to help and loving the Congo which he knew well, since he had already been established there for more than six years, he showed in all the missions which he undertook with his colleagues a wonderful spirit of friendship and demonstrated at all times his devotion to that ideal which he served with deep conviction, and for which he died.

On December 29, 1961, a moving ceremony took place in one of the churches in Geneva, which was attended by family mourners, by representatives of the cantonal and municipal authorities, of the League and also of numerous international institutions and by the diplomatic representatives of various countries. A large Red Cross flag was displayed in front of the choir and the congregation included the President and large numbers of members and staff of the ICRC.

Mr. Léopold Boissier, in the name of the International Committee, recalled in the following terms one who had paid with his life for his devotion to the cause of the Red Cross :

At the beginning of July 1960, the Belgian Congo, which had obtained its independence, was seething with agitation. Chaos reigned and the sole representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Ammann, who had only just arrived, found himself facing a superhuman task.

Fortunately, a young Genevese businessman introduced himself to him and offered his services on a voluntary basis. These services first of all included a typewriter, a car, much good-will and as much time as was needed. He also knew the country, its dialects, customs, tribes and the local chiefs. Furthermore, he was greatly interested in the natives whom he understood and loved, and who repayed him a hundred times for all his understanding and affection.

But, above all, Georges Olivet offered his whole being, even his life, of which he was to make the supreme sacrifice in the break in the path on which his destiny as a Christian was to lead him.

Georges Olivet,
*died in the service of the
Red Cross (1961).*



Here he is distributing relief at Luena in the Congo in 1960.



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For some people the first encounter with the Red Cross is a decisive moment in their lives. They are called upon by a large undertaking to give of their best to exalted work amidst the evils which strike humanity, but which is also in proportion to the devotion which it arouses.

In his own family and in his home town Georges Olivet had found many opportunities of helping those nearest to him and now, in the vast expanse of the Congo, the International Committee of the Red Cross was to enable him still further to realise his need for service, devotion and fulfilment.

All those who worked with him and, above all, his friends can testify through my words. Thanks to him the delegates of the International Committee were able to accomplish their task by having had beside them a counsellor, someone who worked out a plan and who was always available.

Always calm and cheerful, and free from the nervousness from which nearly all white people seem to suffer in the debilitating climate of Central Africa, Georges Olivet was ready to undertake anything, even the humblest of tasks: he it was who booked air tickets and obtained all that his colleagues required, but, thanks to his popularity, he also arranged meetings with the Head of the State and his ministers. He knew what had to be said and what had to be done. He was welcome everywhere and doors opened to him, enabling the beneficent action of the Red Cross to pass through behind him.

Then, this autumn, came the last, the most difficult mission of all in which he gave everything, the International Committee's intervention during the United Nations action in Katanga. This consisted in the heat of the battle in collecting victims lying hurt in the streets, ensuring the hospitalisation of the wounded, organising the evacuation of civilians, negotiating truces which were essential, in a word, to enable the red cross on a white ground to give its protection once again.

This battle is blind, striking haphazard. Under conditions which an enquiry will no doubt establish, Georges Olivet, tried in vain to cross the lines several times. During a last attempt he and his companions were struck down.

At all events, the sacrifice has been made and he fell in action in full completion of his duty.

When, on Christmas Eve, I told my colleagues of the International Committee of my anguish over the still uncertain fate of our delegate

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in Katanga, I added that whatever happened, there was reason for us to believe and to hope, since Georges Olivet had strengthened us in the usefulness and the importance of our task...

After the organ had been played, the funeral service was celebrated and the officiating clergyman recalled the personality of the deceased who, by accomplishing his task as far as the supreme sacrifice, illustrated the verse in St. John's Gospel: "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend."

Georges Olivet's brutal death and the circumstances surrounding it, and the fact also that the sign of the red cross no longer protects those who legitimately seek its protection, shook the conscience of the world as can be seen by the messages of condolence which reached Geneva after December 23, 1961.

The League, as well as numerous National Red Cross Societies, expressed their sympathy to the ICRC. The following are some examples¹:

shocked at sad news deepest sympathy self and irish red cross = barry chairman.

britredcross deeply shocked tragic death monsieur olivet offer our heartfelt sympathy to family and icrc = limerick british red cross.

belgian red cross profoundly moved associates itself with sorrow international committee of red cross and salutes the memory of g olivet who has well deserved of the entire red cross by giving his life in the service of humanity = prince albert of belgium.

learn through press death olivet and colleagues stop requesting you transmit deep condolences bereaved families express admiration for representatives fallen field of honour with feelings of horror for this new attack privileges red cross = baron zeeland general treasurer league of red cross societies.

surprised to hear news through press and profoundly regret tragic death of monsieur georges olivet icrc delegate on customary mission near elisabethville stop please accept our sincere condolences and trans-

¹ Some of which have been translated by us.

mit our cordial sympathy to family of deceased = shimadzu president
japanese red cross.

grievously moved by death monsieur olivet and his companions
killed in the service of the red cross stop french red cross sends expression
its deeply saddened sympathy to icrc = françois poncet president french
red cross.

moved to learn of tragic fate monsieur georges olivet and his col-
leagues request accept our deepest condolences = ferri general pre-
sident italian red cross.

we are deeply grieved reported death georges olivet nicole vroomen
stys smeeding due unexplained shooting and treasure the memory of
another sacrifice beyond call of duty characteristic of redcross workers
exemplifying devotion to service humanity = philippine national red
cross.

Many institutions also associated themselves with this loss.
Amongst them, the United Nations, whose Secretary-General,
Mr. Thant, expressed himself as follows:

have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your message of 24
december relative to the announcement of the discovery of the bodies of
monsieur olivet, madame vroomen and monsieur smeding para wish to
express to you the profound sorrow which the death on service of these
men and of this woman who, in accordance with the noblest red cross
traditions, advanced in the midst of the fighting to accomplish their
humanitarian mission stop the representatives of unoc have on numerous
occasions appreciated the exceptional quality of the work carried out
by monsieur olivet and also his contribution in a spirit of total devotion
and personal sacrifice to bring aid to human suffering during recent
hostilities at elisabethville.

Finally, we would point out that the President of Katanga,
Mr. Tshombe, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Congo, Mr. Bomboko, sent telegrams to the ICRC of which these
were the main points :

government of katanga presents sincere condolences to you and
wishes to thank you for all red cross has done in katanga since beginning
cruel events which our country has known wishes to assure you of its
entire cooperation with an organisation which never ceases attracting
the respect of all = president of katanga moise tschombe.

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government and congolese people learnt with sorrow tragic disappearance delegate international committee red cross in congo and of his companions stop request you receive sincere condolences congolese government to families of deceased stop feel responsibility and impartiality with which monsieur olivet accomplished his mission in the congo can only do honour to the international committee = bomboko minister foreign affairs.

One can see by the above quotations what deep feelings were aroused by the death of the ICRC delegate, killed whilst accomplishing the highest duty which man can give in the world, that of serving others. But Georges Olivet did not sacrifice himself in vain. He went unarmed in an ambulance and the war killed him, believing that with him and his companions was also killed the spirit of peace and good-will which they represented. This spirit, however, cannot be destroyed : it remains today one of the only hopes in a world torn apart.

The United Nations and the application of the Geneva Conventions

A letter from the UNO Secretary-General to the ICRC

Mr. Thant, UNO Secretary-General, replied to a communication which he had received from Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The following are principal extracts from this letter :

I am in entire agreement with you in considering that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 constitute the most complete standards granting to the human person indispensable guarantees for his protection in time of war or in case of armed conflict whatever form it may take. I also wish to confirm that UNO insists on its armed forces in the field applying the principles of these Conventions as scrupulously as possible.

In this connection, you ask whether it would be opportune for the United Nations to issue an official and public statement that it undertakes in all circumstances to respect the Geneva Conventions. In so far as the United Nations Emergency Force is concerned, a formal provision to this effect has been inscribed in article 44 of the regulations drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with Resolution 1001 (ES-I) of the General Assembly ; the said article reads as follows :

Respect for the conventions. The members of the Force are bound to respect the principles and the spirit of the general international Conventions relative to the conduct of military personnel.

A similar provision will apply to the United Nations Force in the Congo . . .

Furthermore, the Secretary-General declares himself prepared to co-operate in the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions amongst UNO military personnel in the Congo.

He further states : I am certain that there is no need to specify that all measures envisaged by UNO would have no other object than that of reminding members of its Forces of the principles of the Geneva Conventions and thus to show, without any possible ambiguity, that operations carried out in the name and under the command of the Organization must be in complete accordance with the spirit of the Conventions.

ICRC Mission in Algeria and Tunisia

Continuing its customary activity on behalf of prisoners and detained persons, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a new mission to Algeria between November 24 and December 16, 1961.

Consisting of Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Mr. Roger Vust and Dr Jean-Louis de Chastonay, this delegation, the ninth since 1955, has just returned to Geneva after having visited 51 places of detention of various categories, including hospitals in which the detained and interned are treated. Sixteen of these visits were made to places in which European activists were detained or interned as a result of the recent events.

As usual, the delegates of the ICRC were everywhere able to speak with detainees of their own choosing or with the representatives appointed by the detainees.

On December 15, the head of the mission verbally submitted his principal observations and suggestions to Mr. Jean Morin, Delegate General of the Government in Algeria, and to General Ailleret, Commander-in-Chief of the French forces. The written report on these visits will be presented to the French Government as soon as possible.

Since it was anxious, however, also to bring its aid to French prisoners held by the " Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic ", the ICRC had, prior to its mission in Algeria, despatched a delegation to Tunis from November 21 to 23, 1961.

The object of this mission, which consisted of Miss Marguerite van Berchem, a member of the Committee and Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate, was to examine with the members of the GPRA the problem raised by the application of the Geneva Conventions to French civilians and military personnel presumed to be held by the "Algerian National Army of Liberation".

The representatives of the ICRC met various Algerian personalities, notably Youssef Ben Khedda and Belkacem Krim, who promised to forward the names of five French prisoners to the ICRC.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

The ICRC intervenes with UNO

In order to support the delegates' action, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, sent a telegram to Mr. Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, insisting on the urgent necessity of evacuating the wounded, the sick and elements of the civilian population who found themselves in the zones of military operations in various parts of Elisabethville and Katanga. He asked him to see to it that the representatives of the United Nations in the Congo help the delegates of the ICRC to accomplish their strictly humanitarian mission.

In his reply to Mr. Boissier, Mr. Thant stated : " I wish to take this opportunity of assuring you that the troops of UNO Command will continue to do everything possible to protect the life and property of the civilian population and that it will co-operate with your representatives in Katanga in every possible way in the accomplishment of their humanitarian mission ".

The ICRC at work in different Parts of Laos

The general delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. André Durand, has just completed a visit to Xieng-Khouang in Northern Laos, where he was concerned with various humanitarian questions. He visited four American prisoners in the hands of the Xieng-Khouang Government, three civilians, Mr. Grant Wolfkill, Mr. Edward Shore and Mr. John McMorro and one soldier, Sergeant Orville J. Ballenger. The ICRC delegate was able to speak with them in the presence of representatives of the Laotian authorities. He enquired as to their needs, so as to be able to send them the necessary relief. He has already handed over parcels for them to the authorities. The prisoners declared that they were in good health and they also said that they had received letters which the ICRC had previously sent them.

Similarly, Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC doctor-delegate, is continuing his activities in Southern Laos. He recently went to Savannakhet, where he revisited prisoners and Laotian internees in the hands of the Vientiane Government. Previous visits had been made in the spring.

Working in close co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, Dr. Baer has also continued relief distributions to the refugees in the Mekong valley. In this connection, he went to the Saravane region, where he handed over relief to two villages built by the refugees. In this part of Laos many of the refugees are Khas who are of early Indochinese origin.

In a Saravane hospital, Dr. Baer handed over four cases of blood plasma, a gift from the Netherlands Red Cross. Still in co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, he also distributed relief parcels to the sick and wounded.

Further relief distributions are scheduled for the southernmost part of Laos.

During these different tours, the ICRC doctor-delegate took particular interest in the state of health of the refugee populations who, in general, are suffering from a lack of vitamins and from diseases such as beriberi, amoebic dysentery and malaria. The needs to which this alarming situation has given rise have resulted in the contributions made since August by a dozen National Red Cross Societies being exhausted. The ICRC intends to ask for further contributions to this relief action.

Relief consignments to Algeria

The ICRC is also continuing its work on behalf of the resettled population. Thus 20 tons of powdered milk from dairy surplus provided by the Government of the Swiss Confederation, are on their way to Algeria. This gift is the continuation of previous consignments, totalling 150 tons, which made it possible for the mobile teams of the French Red Cross to carry out numerous distributions of milk, in co-operation with the ICRC delegate in Algeria, to the children in the resettlement centres.

Artificial Limbs supplied to Algerian War-Disabled

This autumn saw the end of an action by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was responsible for bringing aid to Algerian war-disabled in Morocco. From 1958 to the present date, the ICRC has supplied 25 temporary and permanent artificial limbs, 8 pairs of orthopaedic footwear for those with foot amputations or leg wounds, 70 pairs of crutches, 112 artificial eye-pieces of various types and 2 invalid carriages.

This relief action was undertaken following a request by the Algerian Red Crescent and visits by ICRC delegates. Already in 1957, a delegate had gone to Lousteau hospital, in Oujda, where the senior physician advised him of the requirements of the disabled.

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A number of steps had then to be taken to obtain equipment corresponding exactly to these requirements.

Relief consignment to Togo

In order to contribute to the action which the Togolese Red Cross is undertaking on behalf of refugees settled in Togo, the ICRC sent relief to Lomé at the end of November. This consignment consisted of two tons of concentrated soup.

Aid to Netherlands subjects in Indonesia

The Indonesian Government has decided to entrust the National Red Cross Society with the task of dealing with the humanitarian aspect of the problems concerning Netherlands subjects remaining in Indonesia.

The Indonesian Red Cross, which is the sole organization empowered to do this, thus has the task of transmitting Netherlands Government pensions and allowances to its beneficiaries. These payments were previously made through the intermediary of Great Britain, which represented Netherlands interests in Indonesia. These were, however, interrupted when the Detaining Power was obliged to cease exercising its functions last March.

Thanks to the Red Cross, Dutch pensioners can consequently once more receive payments upon which they mainly rely for their subsistence. The Indonesian Red Cross can also be called upon to assist, as it did in 1958, Netherlands subjects who might decide to leave Indonesia to return to the Netherlands.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of humanitarian tasks thus devolving on the Indonesian Red Cross, practical co-operation has been established with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which ensures liaison with the Netherlands authorities. There is a representative of the Committee at present at Djakarta.

The ICRC at a Congress of Radiation Medicine

In reply to an invitation from the German Red Cross in the German Federal Republic, the International Committee of the Red Cross was represented by one of its members, Brigade Colonel Hans Meuli, former Director of the Swiss Army Medical Service, at the Vth Session of Medical Specialists in Radiation (5. Tagung der DRK-Strahlenschutzärzte). This meeting, which was organized by the German Red Cross, discussed problems raised by the protection of the civilian population against the risks incurred from radiation in time of peace as in time of war. It took place between November 23 and 25 at the Nursing Centre of the Bavarian

Red Cross at Munich (Mutterhaus der Schwesternschaft München des Bayerischen Roten Kreuzes).

The participants, numbering about 200, were greeted by Dr. G. Denecke, Head Medical Officer of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic. The President of the German Red Cross, Ritter von Lex, who had just come from Geneva where he had been received by the ICRC, also spoke. Brigade Colonel Meuli, the only foreign guest to be invited, brought greetings from the ICRC.

It was brought out at this meeting, that over the past four years about 200 German doctors had been specialising in the treatment of radiation and that they could in future undertake the instruction of nursing and auxiliary personnel in this subject. This will be of immense value to the Red Cross.

Brigade Colonel Meuli took the opportunity, whilst he was in Munich, of visiting hospital establishments for the war-disabled and for accidents. He thus visited the Hermann Schramm Hospital at Murnau, as well as the clinics and rehabilitation centres of Bad Tölz. He also visited an exhibition of vehicles for the disabled and was most impressed by the remarkable work which has been accomplished in that field.

Course at the ICRC

During November, Mr. Ricardo Bermudez, Director of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, made a study visit to the International Committee during which he followed closely the work of the different departments of our institution with great interest. Mr. Bermudez then made a study visit to the League of Red Cross Societies.

Red Cross Centenary

At its last meeting the Committee of the Centenary Celebrations adopted its statute and decided to call itself in future : " Committee for the Red Cross Centenary in Switzerland ".

The preparatory work for the exhibition has progressed and the first model, on town planning, has been approved.

During an information session organized for its benefit, the personnel of the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross heard speeches on the preparation of the Centenary Celebrations and the XXth International Conference, as well as on the recruitment campaign scheduled by the Swiss Red Cross.

With regard to publicity for the Centenary, contacts have been made with agencies specializing in public relations.

Those responsible are also concerned with ensuring accommodation for the numbers of people who will be taking part in the Centenary Celebrations and the XXth International Conference and, to this effect, they have approached the competent services.

Guests of the ICRC

From the beginning of November to early December the ICRC was privileged to welcome several personalities to its headquarters, among them ; Dr. Ha Vinh Phoong, the Republic of Vietnam Chargé d'Affaires in Bonn ; Dr. Oucharef, Vice-President of the " Algerian Red Crescent " ; Mr. Chao Sopsaïana, Laotian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ; accompanied by Mr. Tay Keoluanchot, Vice-President of the Laotian Red Cross ; Dr. El-Wakil, permanent observer of the Arab League ; Count Decazes, Assistant-Delegate of the Order of Malta to the International Organisations in Geneva ; Mr. E. Bighinatti, Assistant National Director of the National Disaster Relief Services of the American Red Cross ; Mr. Nedim About, Assistant Director-General of the Turkish Red Crescent ; Mr. Faustino Mercado, Assistant-Director of the national disaster relief services of the Philippine Red Cross ; Mr. Vernon Zimmerman, Assistant-Director of the National Disaster Relief Services of the American Red Cross ; Miss Jane Martin, Director of the Nursing and Social Welfare Bureau of the French Red Cross ; Miss Evelyn Bark, Counsellor for Relief and International Relations of the British Red Cross ; Mrs. E. Koltai, Director of the Department of External Relations of the Hungarian Red Cross ; Lt. Col. Haakon Mathiesen, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Red Cross and Mr. Björn Deichmann-Sorenson, Director of Public Relations of the Norwegian Red Cross.

The ICRC was also privileged to receive various groups, namely students from the " Bon Secours " Nursing School in Geneva, students from the International School in Geneva, as well as the presidents of national students associations of various countries who had been invited to take part in the Congress of the National Union of Students in Switzerland.

ON THE TRACK OF FORMER ITALIAN INTERNEES IN GERMANY

It may seem surprising that, 16 years after the end of hostilities, certain sections of the Central Tracing Agency are obliged to continue their task of discovering the fate of members of the armed forces missing or presumed dead during the course of the Second World War.

Thus, for example, the Italian Section is still dealing on an average with 400 cases each month. The chief object of these enquiries, which are mostly submitted to it by the Italian authorities, is to identify interned Italian military personnel in German hands who died in captivity in Germany or in German occupied territory.

It should be pointed out in this connection that these interned military did not enjoy the status of prisoners of war and that the ICRC did not receive official notification concerning their capture, internment or death.

Information of their death was gradually discovered after the war through the records of certificates of births, marriages and deaths or from the cemetery in the locality in which they were working during their internment, but more often than not these records do not state the place of birth of the deceased, whose name is often incorrectly spelt. Furthermore, searches which are made in cemeteries result in finding graves of Italian subjects often with incomplete and even half-obliterated inscriptions.

It should also be added that many former internees have, on their return from captivity, given eye-witness accounts of the death of some of their comrades, without, however, being able to indicate the place of origin or the exact name of the deceased.

How is the Italian Section able to supply details necessary for the identification of these deceased military? Only a certain number of Italian military internees were authorized to send capture cards to the Central Agency. The latter, however, anxious to fill in the gaps in its documentation, took care to record on card indexes details mentioned on the internees' message forms (a

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certain number of these messages were in fact sent via Switzerland), details which included the name and Christian name of the internee, his prisoner's number, the number of the camp upon which he was dependant, the work commando to which he was attached, as well as the address of his family.

In addition, the Italian Section's card-index, containing 7 million cards, also retains all enquiries which were made by Italian families to the Central Agency.

As one can imagine, it is by no means easy to correct a mistake in a name in such a way as to find subsequently in the card-index details which are likely to refer to the same person. In order to solve such a real puzzle, one should take various factors into account : the dialect of the person writing down the name in his own spelling, mistakes in striking in type-written texts, distortions arising from the repatriated prisoner's dialect in which a verbal account has been given, etc. . .

The same work has to be done, to a certain extent, in the opposite direction, that is to say when the fate has to be established of military missing or interned personnel who have not returned home, after the war. Using their exact particulars as a basis, it is then necessary to imagine all the possible distortions to which their names could have been subjected in order to find some information concerning them in the card-index.

This is no doubt an arduous task, but, in the end, is it not a question of being able to give to the families of the military missing, a certainty, however painful it may be, and the comfort at last of knowing where a son's or a husband's body lies buried ?

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As in previous years, the annual message by Mr. L. Boissier, President of the ICRC, has been recorded by the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Office and sent to fifty-one national broadcasting systems all over the world, in six different languages, for broadcasting at the close of 1961.

It has also been sent in French in the following countries : Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, USSR and Yugoslavia. The text is as follows :

The year which is now drawing to a close has been darkened by much menace. The spectre of war has everywhere spread its threatening wings over the nations both great and small. The armaments race has continued at an ever-increasing speed, bringing no security.

Then one can hear the Red Cross message of hope. For this autumn in Prague, the representatives of the International Committee, of the League and of the National Societies unanimously agreed on a draft declaration of principles which will act as their guide in future. What did this declaration then say ? : " The purpose of the Red Cross is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples ".

These are not just mere words. The International Committee of Geneva for its part has worked in all countries in which men face each other in violence. In all places it has shown that understanding and mutual help can take the place of force, that confidence can succeed hatred.

There can be no peace without goodwill between men. Following the example of the Red Cross, which acts in its own sphere with such enthusiasm and resolution, each one of you should understand that you should also work for peace in your family, in your work and in your own country.

I am profoundly convinced that, by thus placing you in front of your own personal responsibility I can ask you to hope.

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

Nicaragua

Certain humanitarian actions which have been successfully carried out by the Nicaraguan Red Cross demonstrate how the principles of the Red Cross can be respected under the most unfavourable circumstances. The National Society intervened in favour of the victims of the events which had taken place in that country by referring to Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions.

We publish below information which we have recently received from that Society and we are pleased to draw attention, as we have done on several occasions, to the activities of National Red Cross Societies in favour of persons who have been detained in their own countries as a result of internal disturbances¹. This information consists of two reports which the President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross forwarded to the ICRC on November 3, 1959 and March 10, 1961 respectively.²

I

... I have the honour to inform the International Committee of the action which the Nicaraguan Red Cross carried out in favour of political prisoners held in the various prisons of Nicaragua following on an attempt at revolution on May 31, 1959.

¹ Concerning in particular the Guatemalan and Mexican Red Cross Societies, see *Revue internationale*, August 1959.

² These reports, which were originally written in Spanish, have been translated by the section of the ICRC concerned.

As soon as our Society heard that a group of revolutionaries had invaded Nicaraguan territory and that the National Guard was making preparations for defence, it offered its services to the Government, proposing that it come into action in the theatre of operations. It accordingly submitted the following message to that effect :

Mr. Luis A. Somoza D., President of the Republic—The Nicaraguan Red Cross, wishing to support the application of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, of which the Government is signatory, and being profoundly moved by the events which have been brought about by the armed conflict which is at present raging in our country, begs Your Excellency to be so good as to grant the necessary guarantees in order that, in conformity with the above-mentioned Conventions, we may proceed to the field of battle where our doctors, nurses, first-aid workers and ambulances will come to the aid of the wounded. Hoping for your prompt and favourable reply, I send you my friendly greetings. Rafael Cabrera, President.

Our offer, which was based on Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions and on various Resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross, received the following reply :

Dr. Rafael Cabrera, President of the Nicaraguan Red Cross—As you will have learnt from information published in communiqués by the military section in charge, the National Guard makes every effort to avoid shedding blood by employing tactics which force the invaders to surrender, with the exception of those who refuse to lay down their arms and persist in attacking the patrols of the National Guard. Prisoners are treated with consideration by the military authorities which fully respect the rules as laid down in the Geneva Conventions and scrupulously observe the fundamental humanitarian principles. The wounded receive adequate care and are hospitalized, if necessary. Under these circumstances, I consider that the personnel and the material offered by your generous institution to lend medical assistance which is already adequately assured by the Army services, are not necessary. Furthermore, since no clearly defined battlefield exists, but only isolated groups attempting to hide or to take to flight in the most inaccessible country, the mission which you propose is practically unrealizable. I wish, however, to thank you for your proposal which I regard as an offer of co-operation with the Government and the Services of the Army in accordance with Article 26 of the statutes of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. With my friendly salutations, Luis A. Somoza ”.

In the face of this situation our Society waited in expectation. Following on a strike which threatened to paralyse trade in the main towns, a large number of persons were arrested and imprisoned in various parts of the country. Our representations then aimed at obtaining the release of several persons, whose state of health would have made them unable to stand up to a period of internment and, in other cases, at improving detention conditions by the despatch of parcels and by the intervention of our medical aid service.

In all about 120 invaders surrendered to the National Guard. These were transported to Managua and placed in solitary confinement in various prisons in the town. The Red Cross then received numerous requests from the families of prisoners who wanted to know where these were being held. In spite of all our efforts it was not possible, however, for us to carry out our mission, since the abnormal situation which existed throughout the country, delayed the representations which we made.

It was at this moment that we had the honour to receive two members of the ICRC, Mr. Jequier and Mr. Delarue, who arrived in Managua on June 19. As soon as they were made acquainted with the situation by leading members of our Society, the two delegates of the ICRC accompanied by Dr. Rafael Cabrera, President, and Dr. Marcelino L. Mora, Secretary-General of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, had a meeting on June 24 with the President of the Republic, to whom Mr. Jequier set forth the humanitarian principles which animate the International Red Cross on behalf of prisoners of war during conflicts not of an international character, which was precisely the case in this particular instance. The Head of the Government then authorized the members of the National Red Cross Society and the delegates of the ICRC to visit the prisons. These visits, during which the members of the Red Cross were able to speak freely with prisoners of their own choosing, enabled our Society to give information to all those who were daily asking for news of close relatives who had been detained.

The anguish in which the prisoners' families were living was relieved, as the delegates proposed to the President that he authorize regular visits, a proposal which was agreed to ; on Thursday and Sunday afternoons the prisoners were able to receive and to

speak freely for two hours with members of their families. These arrangements were carried out at the "Campo de Marte" and the "Hangares de la Fuerza Aérea" prisons and in those of the "Tercera Compañía G.N." throughout July and August. Families could also bring parcels of food and clothing. Our institution for its part occupied itself with medical aid and with supplying the necessary medicaments.

Four detainees in the "Primer Batallón Presidencial" prison remained in solitary confinement for two months, in spite of the numerous representations which were made by our Society. The authorities maintained that, since these prisoners were then undergoing interrogation, it was consequently not possible for them to be transferred to prisons in which there were other detained persons. At the beginning of August this special treatment came to an end and visits were then authorized.

Visits were forbidden at the beginning of September. The authorities considered it necessary to take such a step in view of the fact that the prisoners were to be summoned before a court martial. With the co-operation of the authorities, our Society succeeded in organizing a service through whose intermediary the detainees were able to receive parcels from their families. A bureau which has been established at the headquarters of our institution receives once a week about 150 parcels which are distributed throughout the prisons personally by officials of the Red Cross. For detained persons of foreign origin, who, since they do not have their families in Nicaragua, do not receive parcels, the Nicaraguan Red Cross, in co-operation with the Women's Auxiliary Committee, has started a system by which these prisoners are also able to receive relief each week.

On July 23, a students' demonstration, which took place at Ciudad de León, was broken up by the National Guard using fire-arms which caused five deaths and some fifty wounded. As soon as these news became known, a convoy left for Ciudad de León, 55 miles distant from Managua, and brought with it all the necessary supplies to enable medico-surgical treatment to be given to the students. Our institution made representations with a view to obtaining the release of some of these, allegedly wounded, who had been interned in the local prisons which, as it turned out, was not

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the case. This lamentable incident resulted later in the imprisonment of a large number of the inhabitants of León, who were transported to prisons in Managua. Our Society's parcel service was then extended to cover these new detainees.

Following on the escape of a prisoner of the revolutionary movement, the engineer Luis Cardenal, the authorities took certain measures which caused alarm to the families of the detainees. A new batch of four prisoners were placed in solitary confinement and transferred to prisons of the "Primer Batallón". Another detainee was also placed in solitary confinement in a cell of severely restricted dimensions in the "Campo de Marte" prison. In order to ensure greater security, the authorities ordered windows to be closed, thus excluding air and light, in several prisons. Representations which were made to have these orders cancelled were successful, except in the case of the "Campo de Marte" prison. On October 18, the authorities once more authorized visits with the result that on Sundays prisoners can receive visits from members of their families of their own choosing.

The prisoners have appeared before a court martial and have been accused of treason against the State. They have denied this accusation and broken off relations with their defending counsel, with the result that the Government has been obliged to appoint these officially.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Amongst the prisoners there were several Costa Rican nationals, who received correspondence through the intermediary of the Costa Rican Red Cross. Furthermore, representations, which have so far been unsuccessful, have been made for the restitution of property of certain Costa Rican and Nicaraguan subjects who had been killed by members of the National Guard and whose families reside in Costa Rica.

A group of Nicaraguans attempting to invade Nicaraguan territory across the Honduran frontier was discovered and machine-gunned by the Honduran authorities at a place known as "El

Chaparral". Several killed and wounded were reported there. The co-operation of the Honduran Red Cross proved itself most valuable in making known in Nicaragua information concerning the condition of wounded interned in Honduran hospitals.

At the request of the Salvador Red Cross, we visited several political detainees and sent news of them to their families in Salvador.

The opportune visit of the delegates of the ICRC was most useful to us, since it enabled us to obtain numerous facilities to accomplish our humanitarian mission on behalf of the prisoners. Thanks to their intervention we were able to pass on information very rapidly to a hundred families who were in deep anguish, since they did not know where their relatives were being detained.

This experience has made us see the importance of Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. The need for developing these notions is obvious, as well as for establishing in this particularly delicate sphere, rather more precise rules which could enable autonomous National Societies to undertake a wider action on behalf of all wounded and sick during conflicts not of an international character.

II

I have the honour to inform you of the activity which the Nicaraguan Red Cross, basing itself on Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, is undertaking on behalf of political prisoners and prisoners of war who were captured as a result of the armed revolt which broke out on November 11, 1960 in Jinotepe and Diriamba.

A group of revolutionaries, about forty in all, made a surprise attack on the National Guard barracks at Jinotepe and Diriamba, which resulted in several deaths and wounded on both sides. On the night on which these events took place, Red Cross ambulances entered the town of Diriamba. These were respected by the revolutionary elements and were able to proceed with the removal of the wounded. I mention this fact in this report, since it gave us keen satisfaction to see to what extent our compatriots are infused with the work of the Red Cross and with its fundamental principle of neutrality.

The National Guard succeeded in overcoming its opponents, some of whom surrendered immediately, whilst others took refuge in a school and gave themselves up later, when guarantees were given for their lives and humanitarian treatment. Members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Nicaragua acted as mediators in the conflict.

The President of the Republic authorized the Red Cross of Nicaragua to visit the prisoners each week in their cells and to take parcels to them which their families deposit for them every Thursday in the offices of our institution. This action has been continuing without interruption.

Condition of the prisoners : The fourteen youths who surrendered in the school are being held in the prisons of the Presidential Palace. They are accommodated in four cells. Recently they were given permission to remain outside their cells during the day in a corridor in which there is a certain amount of air, but little light.

There are thirty-two prisoners in the "Campo de Marte" prisons. In spite of the requests which we have made, we have not been able to obtain authorization for them to have daily sun-baths nor for them to have more light in their cells.

In these various places of detention, the Red Cross has supplied folding beds for the prisoners and has carried out disinfection of the cells. Every Thursday a Red Cross doctor accompanies the Commission on its rounds and examines the prisoners, supplying them with the necessary medicaments for their treatment.

Air Force prisons : Some forty prisoners accused of complicity in the revolt are interned in these prisons. At the outset, hygienic conditions were by no means satisfactory. The Nicaraguan Red Cross undertook to disinfect and to whitewash the cells and gave medical aid to the persons under detention. It could see that several of these had been subjected to physical violence. It recommended the transfer of one of the detainees, who was suffering from a lumbar hernia to a hospital, the sole means of ensuring suitable treatment for him. The authorities gave their approval to this recommendation.

Jinotepe prisons : Twenty-eight persons accused of revolutionary complicity are interned in two cells. The Red Cross had these cells

whitewashed and had sanitation installed. It gave medical aid and supplied medicaments. The distribution of parcels was not here found to be necessary, since the local authorities themselves had permitted a daily issue of food and clothing.

Acting in liaison with the revolutionary movement, another group had penetrated into Nicaragua across the Honduran frontier, of which many were detained. The Nicaraguan Red Cross acted as an intermediary between families and informed them of the detainees' whereabouts. It set up a correspondence service which was submitted beforehand to official censorship.

About seventy persons benefited each week from the despatch of parcels. The holding of religious services was allowed on two occasions and one visit by relatives.

The Government has stated that as soon as interrogations have been completed, the detainees will go before a court martial in accordance with the laws of the country.

Thirteen members of the Army were wounded and have been interned in the military hospital in the capital. These patients were visited by the Red Cross, which distributed cigarettes and food. They have been given attentive treatment at the hospital and with the exception of one who died, they are all on their way to convalescence.

We are pleased to be able to inform you that, thanks to the co-operation of the Government, the Red Cross of that country has been able to radiate, as far as into the prisoners' cells, the humanitarian spirit of the International Red Cross as expressed in the Geneva Conventions.

CHRONICLE

DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

The World Veterans Federation (WVF) recently held an international conference at The Hague from November 20 to 25 and from November 27 to December 4, 1961. The international institutions of the Red Cross were kindly invited to take part as observers, and the International Committee delegated Mr. Frédéric Siordet, a member of the ICRC, whilst the League was represented by Dr. Borgeld, medical counsellor of the Netherlands Red Cross.

The opening ceremony was held on November 7 in the magnificent "Ridderzaal", in the presence of H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who addressed the assembly. The Second International Conference on legislation for ex-servicemen and war victims was primarily concerned with the various national legislative provisions having a bearing on the compensation of ex-servicemen, ex-prisoners of war, deportees etc., or their executors. This problem is the primary concern of Governments, the World Veterans Federation and its different national sections.

Immediately beforehand, from November 20 to 25, the International Conference on delayed after-effects of internment and deportation had studied voluminous medical documentation dealing with the complaints, infirmities and various troubles observed in ex-deportees or prisoners of war and which could be considered as consequences of internment. A number of eminent practitioners from different branches of medicine had contributed to this study and the work of the Conference was enhanced by the presence of important delegations from the Academy of Medicine in Paris and the Royal Academy of the Netherlands. The problem was to find out whether it was possible to draw conclusions on a medical level which were precise enough to allow recommendations to be prepared on a legal level aiming at ensuring an equitable reparation for injuries caused by deportation and internment.

The Conference came to the conclusion that prejudicial after-effects of internment can manifest themselves at any time after liberation, without one being able to fix a time-limit for their appearance.

The debates showed yet again the considerable divergences, insofar as delayed after-effects are concerned, between prisoners of war who had benefited from the application of the 1929 Geneva Convention and prisoners of war for whom this Convention was not applicable and, above all, deportees in concentration camps who were protected by no Convention whatsoever. This fact coincided with the observations which the ICRC had made following the 11,000 visits which it had been able to make to camps during and immediately following the Second World War, and which had been the subject of a communication handed to the Conference. These factual observations show the value of the Conventions, where they exist and where they are applied and, in consequence, they prompt the intensified circulation of these texts.

The ICRC representative made a speech to the assembly (which will be found on the following pages), after an invitation to speak at the closing meeting, which was presided over by Professor Richet, a member of the Academy of Medicine, an eminent specialist in pathology of want and pathology of deportation, an ex-deportee himself and Chairman of the Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine.

For its part, the International Committee can only express its pleasure at witnessing its ever-closer links with the World Veterans Federation, because the experience of the members of this Federation and the authority which it enjoys in the world can be a powerful contribution to the fight against the suffering caused by war.

Here is the speech delivered by Mr. F. Siordet :

Once again the World Veterans Federation has invited the Red Cross to follow its work. I would like you to know with what interest I, together with Dr. Borgeld, representative of the Netherlands Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies, followed your debates.

The International Committee of the Red Cross takes a natural interest in everything connected with war veterans. How many of you, former prisoners of war, will not find your names amongst the

40 million card-indexes of our Central Prisoners of War Agency which had undertaken to re-establish links between the prisoners and their families, their own countries?

And then, is it not a moving experience to see you all re-united here without any distinction between former allies and former adversaries seeking to find together the best means of attenuating past sufferings and of avoiding their repetition in the future?

To lessen the sufferings of war, to attempt, by subscribing to the respect for right, to eliminate unnecessary suffering in the future, that is also the preoccupation of someone who has been called the "third combatant", in other words, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

When I arrived in this hall the day before yesterday, one of you, finding out who I was, at once related his memories as a prisoner of war. He told me the impression which was made by the arrival of the ICRC delegates in his Stalag. After three years of isolation, to see a little air penetrating from outside, some friendship, some relief; to feel at last not to be completely abandoned!

How often, in every part of the world have I not heard the same expressions of gratitude.

But, Gentlemen, for every prisoner of war who has, directly or indirectly benefited from the aid of the Red Cross, from its visits, its parcels, the few improvements in conditions obtained through the delegates of the ICRC, how many others are there who unfortunately say: "The Red Cross? Never heard of it! We never had news from our families or parcels, or visits. Nothing penetrated from outside in our camp where we were treated like animals".

Why these differences in treatment? Why were millions of prisoners of war able to pass years of captivity without too much harm, seeing their conditions regulated, controlled and improved by relief from outside? And why should millions of other prisoners of war and the millions of those in concentration camps, know only conditions of hunger, cold, slavery and often death, and for those who survived, these delayed effects upon which you have been centring your attention?

Does the Red Cross then show any preference?

No, and it offered its services to all the belligerents. But not all of them accepted. Entire camps remained inexorably closed to the ICRC, in spite of its unceasingly repeated efforts, as they remained closed to

the Protecting Power, because no convention gave protection to civilian deportees and because the Geneva Convention of 1929 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war had not been ratified by all parties to the conflict.

Thus, merely comparing between the lot of prisoners of war benefiting under the 1929 Convention and that of other captives, whether civilian or military which no convention protected, gives ample proof of the value of the Geneva Conventions.

*

Your work deals essentially with the delayed effects of deportation and internment. The results of this work, the conclusions reached by this international centre of documentation, will not only be of use to those who are actually suffering from the effects of the period they spent in the concentration camps. They will also be of great value for the future.

In fact, however unanimous and ardent may be people's desire to live in peace and to abolish war, one cannot fail seeing an outburst of localised conflicts, of internal disturbances practically everywhere in the world. The situation leads one to fear that this state of affairs is likely to continue for some certain time.

Now, when one speaks of conflicts or internal disturbances one also means political prisoners, prisoners of war, persons interned. The conclusions which you have reached will enable the appropriate authorities to have the standards of the conventions or the elementary principles of humanity respected, and they will also enable those responsible for deciding upon internment conditions to organize the places of detention, not only from the point of view of safeguarding the immediate health of the captives, but also in order to avoid them, by taking into account the delayed consequences of those conditions of which the existence is only too apparent today.

I will repeat this : The 1929 Convention wherever it was applicable and was in fact applied, has proved its salutary value.

Now, in 1949, this Convention was considerably extended and strengthened as well as those relative to the wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces in the field and at sea.

Furthermore, a fourth Convention protecting civilian persons finding themselves in the hands of the enemy—and this was sadly lacking during the last world conflict—was adopted and regulated by analogy with the Convention relative to prisoners of war, the conditions of internment and the prohibition of deportation.

Finally, contrary to that which was the case in 1939-45, these four Conventions were ratified by nearly all the States in the world, including the Great Powers.

One must therefore hope that if, and God forbid that this will be so, these Conventions would have to be put to the test in a large conflict, they would avoid a repetition of the horrors which we have seen.

But, Gentlemen, in order that these Conventions fulfil their function, it is not sufficient that they should exist. They must also be made known and one should be sufficiently convinced of their necessity for there to be the willingness to have them applied. The signatory Governments have undertaken to disseminate them. It is everyone's duty to assist them to do this and to make the responsible authorities feel that they are bound by the general will, to carry out their obligations.

Gentlemen! Veterans, prisoners and those of you who were deported, know better than anyone the sufferings of war. Because you have benefited from the Conventions or because, on the contrary, you were deprived of them, you know how much relief they can bring when they are observed. You will then allow the International Committee of the Red Cross which, with its modest resources, attempts to have their texts respected, to appeal to you to contribute, from this very moment, to have them made known and to create the determination to have them applied in all circumstances.

People have sometimes said to us : " By speaking of the Geneva Conventions, you evoke war. You want to humanize war? This means that you accept it. You would be better advised to work for peace ".

No! The Red Cross does not accept war. Its very foundation and all its action for nearly a hundred years has been nothing else than a protest against war. A protest not in words but in acts, since the Red Cross, which is unable either to declare war or to end it, makes every effort to dispute the fate of its victims.

I would go further : by working to disseminate the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC is working for peace. What does the spirit of the

Conventions ask? That even in war, even when the unleashing of hatred is at its height, one knows how to discover the human being in one's adversary ; that if he is wounded, one gives him treatment ; a prisoner, that one respects his dignity as a man.

If this is true in time of war, all the more reason for it to be true in time of peace.

Thus, by making the spirit of the Conventions known, and that which has enabled you to find yourselves here amongst former adversaries, we work to create a climate of mutual respect, of compassion in the face of suffering, in which, if it were to become general, would make war impossible.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross¹.

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely : impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of; the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term " National Red Cross Societies " includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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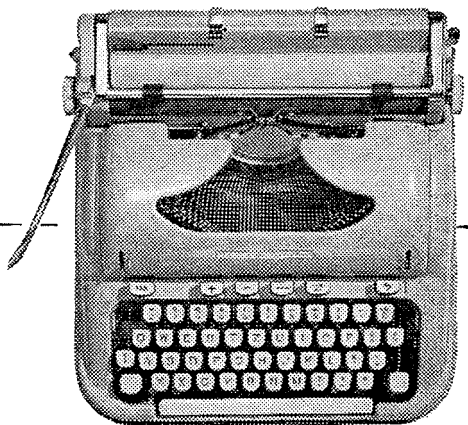


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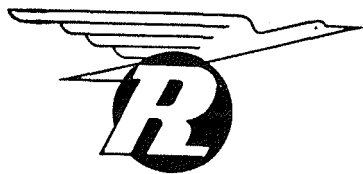


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Some publications of the ICRC

The International Committee publishes works on law and on humanitarian ideas. The following have been published or reprinted recently :

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. *Geneva, 1949.* 249 p., Sw. fr. 8.—.

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. *Brief Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public. — Geneva, 1951.* 13 p., Sw. fr. 1.—.

Commentaries *published under the general editorship of Jean S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross. (Translated from the original French) :*

I. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. — *Geneva, 1952.* 466 p., *paper-back Sw. fr. 12.—; bound Sw. fr. 15.—.*

II. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. — *Geneva, 1960.* 320 p., *paper-back Sw. fr. 15.—; bound Sw. fr. 20.—.*

III. Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. — *Geneva, 1960.* 764 p., *paper-back Sw. fr. 30.—; bound Sw. fr. 35.—.*

IV. Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. — *Geneva, 1958.* 660 p., *paper-back Sw. fr. 25.—; bound Sw. fr. 30.—.*

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Victoria 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, High Court Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharmapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22 *Copenhagen, V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG** — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4º piso, *Mexico* 7, D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monaco*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudamg, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington* C. 2.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua*, D.N.C.A.
- NIGERIA** — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon*.
- RUMANIA** — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic)** — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés, P.O. Box 655, *Lome*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6, D.C.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, đường Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.